

All Ages Curriculum Chart 2011-2013

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



Samples of all these curricula may be borrowed from most regional staff in your area or from Canadian Ministries/The Vine. We strongly recommend that you make use of the interactive websites to see samples of each curriculum.



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Category	General					Lectionary based			Rotational		
Title	Dwell	Rock Solid	Spark: Activate Faith	Walk With Me	We Believe/Wee Believe	Feasting on the Word	Seasons of the Spirit	The Best of the Whole People of God	Cornerstones	Potter's Workshop	PowerXpress Bible Experience Stations
Website	www.DwellCurriculum.org	www.iamrocksolid.com	www.activatefaith.org	www.walkwithmeonline.org	store.pcusa.org	feastingontheword.net/curriculum	www.spiritseasons.com	www.wholepeopleofgod.com	www.cstones.com	www.potters-publishing.com	www.powerxpress.com
Age level	Kindergarten to Grade 8	Pre-school to tweens (ages 3-12)	Age 2 - Grade 6	Preschool to Grade 8	Age 3-5 years (Wee Believe) K-older youth (We Believe)	Kindergarten - adult; Multi-Age (K) 1-6	Preschool (see preschool/nursery on reverse); children; youth and adults	Age 3-grade 12	Age 5-12	Kindergarten to Grade 6	Age 6-12
Producer	Faith Alive Christian Resources	Abingdon Press	Augsburg Fortress	Faith Alive Christian Resources	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	Westminster John Knox Press Congregational Ministries Publishing	Wood Lake Books	Wood Lake Books	Cornerstones Publishing Inc.	Potter's Publishing	Abingdon Press
Description	This curriculum puts its emphasis on the ongoing story of God that starts in the pages of Scripture and continues in our lives today and reflecting on the application of each story.	A non-lectionary comprehensive overview of the Bible that follows the church year through the reading of Bible stories. Helps children understand scripture and apply it to their daily lives. Focuses on building a personal relationship with God through Jesus.	Offers three models: graded classroom, lectionary based, or rotational. Specifies that Scripture is taken seriously with children opening and using the Spark Story Bible or NRSV Bible in each session.	This 2-year cycle curriculum encourages children and their leaders to grow in faith together, emphasizing that faith is not just about what we know and believe – it's also about how we live every day. At the middle school level young teens explore Christian living, Christian Doctrine, and belonging to the Church.	Through Biblical stories shared in a variety of ways, children learn in a setting that stimulates their imagination and encourages class participation.	Curriculum based on the <i>Revised Common Lectionary</i> and the <i>Feasting on the Word</i> commentary series. Biblical background for teachers explores text from four perspectives "what?"; "where?"; "so what?"; "now what?" Adaptable to different learning settings and teaching styles.	This resource follows the Revised Common Lectionary. Uses a variety of learning styles and media and extends the learning experience into congregational life and worship, the home setting, and daily life.	This resource uses the Revised Common Lectionary. Easy to use online curriculum that is designed for small member Sunday schools	Materials come on a CD provided by publisher. A code is purchased in order to open and access the CD.	Experience based curriculum – not a lot of paper and pencil. Uses a multiple-intelligences approach to teaching. Seeks to teach the Bible to effect radical transformation of children's minds and hearts. Seeks to help kids mature in the Christian faith and integrate their faith with their lives. All material comes on CD or download.	Children experience the Bible story in different ways through seeing, hearing and doing. Follows multiple-intelligences teaching methods.
Unique features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Reformed" tips show what makes each session reformed. A Scripture memory song is provided weekly in the elementary level Emphasizes wondering, encourages children/young teens to share their thoughts "Faith Modeling" tips help leaders share their own faith stories with kids Learning activities are based on multiple intelligence theory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 year cycle for Pre-school – Older Elementary; two 1-year surveys of the entire Bible for Tweens Website, games One room Sunday school available Follows the church year/seasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a choice of three models: graded, classroom, lectionary or rotational Provides electronic resources Lessons follow the flow of reformed worship – gather, open, scripture, activate faith, send Includes an "all kids" option for smaller member churches Has a parent link for parents to stay connected to lessons A quarterly magazine for families to learn together available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions embody the reformed theological perspective Teacher guides includes extra options to extend or shorten sessions Emphasizes memorizing key verses All children's resources are available in Braille Website provides ample support and training resources The <i>Sing With Me</i> children's songbook and Leaders Edition provides an additional worship component. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For multiple learning styles Has a multi-age option Good biblical background Strong connection to reformed theology Good online resources Enrichment resources for home use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material provided for pastors makes intentional connections between worship, service and education Solid scriptural and theological base easy to follow and readily adaptable Offers a Total Church Plan Ecumenical, downloadable Scripture is presented in age appropriate ways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent use of visual arts Strong integration of learning, worship, service Can get resources 3 ways (CD, paper, online) from one site: info@seasonsonline.ca Website provides Spirit Sightings, weekly connections between scripture and current events, discussion questions, ideas for prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very affordable Reproducible activity sheets Includes music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners focus on one story or theme for 4-8 weeks Teacher/leader remains in one workshop for the duration of theme Creative and wide variety of activities Website offers 6 year curriculum plan Curriculum is theme based building from Old Testament, New Testament and New Church Curriculum can be customized to gifts of teachers Lessons can be purchased one at a time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses Spiritual Journals for children Curriculum can be downloaded from the website or also comes with a CD with multiple print resources for the 6 workshops in each rotation unit CD includes resources needed to prepare for the unit including purchases to be made for the unit Children have a "shepherd" who goes with them in their rotation to provide continuity Curriculum can be purchased one unit at a time and units can be mixed and matched 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length of units vary (may be used up to 8 weeks) After gathering time children with "shepherds" rotate through different centre options each week Centre options include: art, computer, creative cooking, games, music, science, storytelling, video Same story for 8 weeks in 8 different ways as play, interactive story, action story etc. Some lessons give children the opportunity to do a mission project as part of their learning
Terms/Sessions per term	6 week units for a total of 36 sessions per year. 2-year curriculum cycle. Middle school level will have an additional added in year 3. A Preschool year will be added fall 2013.	Teachers have freedom to select specific quarters to meet specific needs through the church year. 4 terms – each term covers 3 months.	Graded classroom: 40 lessons per year. Lectionary: follows stories in the 3 year cycle. Rotational: provides 48 different story options.	The preschool box contains 40 sessions to repeat yearly. K-8 curriculum is divided into 4 week units. 36 session season can be extended up to 50 sessions with Christmas, Easter and 2 summer units. Summer units may also be used for VBS.	Three 13 week units; fall, winter and spring. Toddler and preschool have additional summer material.	9 or 12 month formats	Material may be ordered by quarter, or for 9 months or 12 month periods. 13 sessions per quarter.	Weekly sessions from September to May. Summer sessions June to August.	Ten units per year with a choice of 11 workshop lessons per unit.	6 yearly themes including Old and New Testament stories. 7 rotational units per theme.	Unit-based – 8 stories per unit
Dating	Undated	Dated by session number and date	Rotation material is undated	Undated	Dated sessions	Dated sessions	Dated sessions	Dated sessions	Undated	Undated	Undated
Grading	Grade levels are not indicated on children's resource materials. Imagine: K-Gr. 1, Wonder: Gr. 2-3, Marvel: Gr. 4-5, and Dive: Gr. 6-8	Preschool, Early Elementary, Middle Elementary, Older Elementary, Tweens in Transition; one room Sunday school also available for ages 3 to middle school	Age 2-grade 6; Graded Classroom: age 2-3, pre K-K, grade 1-2, grade 3-4, grade 5-6	Preschool, K-1, Grade 2-3, Grade 4-5, Grade 6-8	Toddler, preschool, younger elementary, older elementary, younger youth, older youth	(K) 1-2; 3-4; tween; youth, young adult, adult	Birth-age 2; ages 3-5; 6-8; 9-11; 12-14; 15-18; adult. Multiage resources available (ages 5-12). Seasons Fusion provides material for worship and individual reflection.	Age 3; age 4 - gr.1; gr. 2-3; gr. 4-6; gr. 7-12	Minimal grading except for the distinction between readers and non-readers	Primary (K-grade 3); Intermediate (grades 4-6)	Has suggestions for younger children, older children and all ages
Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K-Gr. 1 Old and New Testament stories are grouped around simple themes. Gr. 2-3 and Gr. 4-5 stories are told chronologically, with Year 1 Old Testament and Year 2 New Testament. Gr. 6-8 young teens explore Bible stories paired with Q&A's from reformed doctrine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various themes relating to the church year based on Bible stories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graded Classroom: studies Old Testament in the fall, New Testament in the winter/spring; Christmas, Easter, Pentecost included Rotational: follows eight workshop rotation models for each Bible story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preschool bible stories appear chronologically K-Gr. 1 Old and New Testament stories are grouped around simple themes. Gr. 2-3 and Gr. 4-5 stories appear chronologically; Year 1 Old Testament and Year 2 New Testament Gr. 6-8 young teens explore a year each of themes related to Christian living, reformed doctrine, and the church and God's kingdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young children focus on belonging to God and church community Elementary ages focus on worship Older youth explore a variety of faith questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows the Revised Common Lectionary and seasonal themes of the church year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Themes arising directly from lectionary readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Themes arising directly from lectionary readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six yearly themes with ten units per theme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six year scope and sequence under the following yearly themes: New Beginnings; Covenant and Renewal; Faith – living by God's promises; Great Moments of Faith; Faithful Believers; Living by the Light There are 7 units that are 6 weeks long Churches are free to pick and choose from different yearly themes to design your own program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter, Creation, Dance for Joy – Peter and John, Jesus at the temple, Jesus calms the storm, Noah's ark, Pentecost, Jesus is baptized, Life in Bible times – Mary and Martha, Dig into the Bible, The gift of Jesus, Journey to the Cross, Ten Commandments
Primary Bible translation	NRSV and NIV (2010)	NRSV	Young children: Spark Story Bible; Grade 3 and up: Spark Study Bible (NRSV); recommended that each child have a Spark Bible	NRSV and NIV	NRSV	NRSV	NRSV primarily	NRSV	NRSV	NIV and CEV	TEV
Learner resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K-Gr. 5, Show and Share papers or Storymarks and at home family devotional component. Gr. 6-8 a Dive magazine for each unit and an annual at home devotional book. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Storybook or Story Pack per child Fun Pak (take-home crafts) per child Annual music CD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Spark Classroom and Lectionary models: Leader resources include an easy-to-use teacher guide and an optional lesson prep DVD; Colourful leaflets and stickers in learner packs. For Spark Rotation: There is one reproducible leader guide available for each unit that has all the content for all grade levels; family pages from website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preschool take-home cards K-Gr. 1 take home papers with stickers Gr. 2-3, 4-5, and 6-8 each unit offers a variety of learner resources One year of the middle school level also includes an at home devotional book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Color Pak – reproducible colour resources (sold separately) Director CD – reproducible colour resources, take-home sheets, MP3s and more (sold separately) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All inclusive downloadable resource sheets and colourful teaching pictures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included in all age level packs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downloadable "At Home" pamphlets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No printed resources: Everything is in the lesson with little need for paper work for students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are links in the curriculum for resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No additional learner resources needed
Music	One 2-disk CD set called Dwellsongs includes all the songs for Grades K-5 for the whole year. Songs may also be downloaded by parents from the website.	Lively music gets younger children singing; contemporary Christian music engages older children and tweens.	Spark Songbook and CD (optional); ages 2-K have supplementary songs in Leader's Guide	Music and lyrics available in each leader's guide. Preschool box comes with its own CD. One CD per year for each of the elementary levels. There is no music for middle school. The <i>Sing With Me</i> Songbook and Leader's guide also provide additional music.	Preschool uses printed songs to common tunes. Need one LifeSongs book and CD for elementary. MP3 downloads for older youth	CD available for separate purchase. Child-friendly music lyrics incorporated into the lesson outline.	Optional purchase. Extensive use of music; each age/grade level has CD. Music notation included in resource pack. Music features songs from around the world.	CD and song book included.	No music component but there is an element of music in some workshops.	Music CDs, 70 songs created expressly for specific rotation units.	CD, sheet music and lyric transparencies included in each unit.
Leader resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leader's guides are available in print and electronic formats Middle school leaders will need one copy of Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leader's Guide includes Step-by-step session guides Quick teach activities for time-challenged sessions Reproducible activities Adaptable session plans and multiple activity choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson prep DVD packs Teacher videos (3-5 minutes) available online Good lesson overviews and "supplies needed" list Very clear instructions for teachers Rotation model includes print leader's guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leader's guides include leader's resources A Coordinator's Handbook, and training workshops available for download 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders guides include reproducible b/w handouts Colour posters, handouts, etc. available for purchase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colourful teaching pictures Resource sheets Supplies list Downloadable leader guide Comprehensive biblical background for teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasons Fusion for Congregational Life resources for worship leaders and Christian Education director or team Includes an audio CD, musical scores, activities Tip of the week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly biblical background Weekly worship suggestions and resources including children's theme conversation Tip of the week Additional worship resources and seasonal intergenerational worship services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All on the CD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a free unit of curriculum called "Joseph" on the website to be downloaded for teachers to test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each unit includes everything teachers need (Bible Story, background, shepherd tips, ideas for staff meetings, activity suggestions and tips on how to set up stations
Class kits	All materials are found in the Leader's guides, learner's resources, and Dwellsongs CD	Resource Pak includes songbook, attendance charts, large posters, activities and games, cards and maps	See learner's resources above	Pull out resources and reproducible pages in each leader's guide	None	Age level Colour Packs for children's age levels	Reproducible pages with leader resource; new each year	Coloured teaching pictures included	None needed	None needed	None needed
Links to worship/service	Worship is included in Step 1 of each elementary session	Condensed time of worship for each session including song, prayer, scripture and responding, which links the lesson to the week ahead	Prayers given; grades 5-6 have contemporary prayers	Worship options are included in lesson plans. Ideas for group worship also available. Special Christmas and Easter units provide music and materials.	Links to worship for elementary age. <i>Engage the World and Enhancement</i> in youth resources.	<i>Joining the Feast</i> provides leaders with an overview to the church season, ideas for integrating curriculum activities with worship, preaching and service, all-church program ideas for special Sundays.	Ideas to create art for worship and engage in mission projects.	Weekly resources for congregational worship and in class worship time.	Links are through the liturgical themes.	Units have links to both worship and service.	Not a focus of this material.
Enrichment/companion pieces	God's Big Story Cards are a one-per-household companion piece for the elementary levels of Dwell. Training workshops, webinars, and articles are available online at DwellCurriculum.org	Webinars are available at www.webinars.cokesbury.com	An optional CD-ROM available for each term or rotational unit. Spark blog. Free Spark e-newsletter. Spark Family: quarterly family magazine.	<i>Trail Mix: Good Stuff for Walk With Me</i> Leaders provides additional support for leaders. Training workshops, webinars, and articles are available online at www.walkwithmeonline.org	Youth <i>Enhancement</i> from web. Download unit hymns.	Music CD, Colour Packs. <i>Joining the Feast</i> for Pastors.	Season Fusion for Congregational Life. Music CD, Songbook, art posters, art book <i>Behold: Arts for the Church Year</i> (included with Congregational Life, Ages 12-14 and adult resources). Session outlines on disc. Seasons help line available: 1-866-505-7687.	Music CD, teaching pictures.	Everything included in curriculum.	Everything included in curriculum.	Everything included in curriculum.
Cautionary notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not follow the church year cycle Grades 6-8 simple Q&A's are adapted mainly from the Heidelberg Catechism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not allow for much openness and creativity for experienced teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every child is expected to have a Spark Bible Lots of stickers, paper and pencil activities can feel "schoolish" Experienced teachers may find scripted lessons too rigid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First time Walk With Me leaders will benefit from an orientation to the curriculum using the <i>Welcome to Walk With Me</i> workshop – training manual and PowerPoint slides available online Grade 6-8 uses simple Q&A's as a way of studying reformed doctrine, adapted mainly from the Heidelberg Catechism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith questions are from PC(USA) catechism but they are still universal Christian questions Downloadable summer mission projects are based on PC(USA) mission partners (need to substitute PCC partners) Learning expectations are quite high for teachers and students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No family piece in this material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to get the best price material must be ordered prior to May 1 with 50% deposit Can be overwhelming for inexperienced teachers Strong art component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers must have access to Internet and a photocopier New material is not being produced – present material is updated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strong planning team is needed Learners and leaders may not develop strong bonds as leadership changes frequently Must have printer access for all teachers Not a lot for kids to take home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers need to have access to a photocopier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some churches find 8 sessions and 8 weeks too long for one story Leadership changes a lot
Order information	Faith Alive Christian Resources www.faithaliveresources.org 1-800-333-8300	The Book Room, The Presbyterian Church in Canada 1-800-619-7301 or 416-441-1111 www.presbyterian.ca/bookroom	The Book Room, The Presbyterian Church in Canada 1-800-619-7301 or 416-441-1111 www.presbyterian.ca/bookroom	Faith Alive Christian Resources www.faithaliveresources.org 1-800-333-8300	The Book Room, The Presbyterian Church in Canada 1-800-619-7301 or 416-441-1111 www.presbyterian.ca/bookroom	www.feastingontheword.org/ curriculum	Wood Lake Books www.spiritseasons.com Phone: 1-800-663-2775	www.wholepeopleofgod.com	www.cstones.com	www.potters-publishing.com 1-888-387-8110 or email: potters@potters-publishing.com	The Book Room, The Presbyterian Church in Canada 1-800-619-7301 or 416-441-1111 www.presbyterian.ca/bookroom

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One-Room Sunday School

* **One-Room Sunday School**; Abingdon Press (www.cokesbury.com)

For ages 3 years old to grade 8

One Room Sunday School helps teachers present a lesson to a broadly-graded group that is challenging enough to hold the interest of their older children without going over the heads of their younger children. The resource kit includes everything you need to teach a fun, engaging, and Bible-filled Sunday school class. Included are: Reproducible Activities Book, a Leader’s Guide, a Resource Pak, and a music CD.

Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsENCORE – Multi-age; Wood Lake Books; www.seasonsonline.ca/30/418/ or call 1-800-663-2775

This resource is uniquely designed to meet the needs of a leader with a single group of up to 15 children between the ages of 5 and 12. This multi-age resource offers different age-appropriate options and learning styles for engaging with the biblical stories. Additional reproducible resource sheets are available. The Respond section includes “activity zones” that address different ages, interests, learning styles, and abilities. Children can choose between an Art Zone, Music Zone, Outreach Zone, or Quiet Zone.

The All-in-One Sunday School Series: Be Ready No Matter Who Shows Up (www.cokesbury.com)

This series includes creative programs designed for ministries with mixed-age classes of children ages 4-12 with 13 lessons. This series will work in all multi-age class settings including small member Sunday schools that combine classes every Sunday or for larger member Sunday schools that combine classes in the summer.

Young Children

* **God Loves Me** (storybooks); Patricia L. Nederveld; (www.faihaliveresources.org)

These beautifully illustrated storybooks serve as building blocks to help children learn that God loves them. Children ages 2-3 can respond to the stories through follow-up play activities that help the children grasp the meaning further. Available individually or as a full set, which includes 52 storybooks.

* **Rock-a-Bye Toddlers and Twos**; Abingdon Press (www.cokesbury.com)

This Bible story curriculum for children ages 18-36 months emphasizes teaching Bible stories and simple Christian faith concepts. This resource guides parents and teachers as they help children begin to understand simple faith concepts. A Leader’s Guide offers ways to engage the children in age appropriate activities and coordinates with the resources in the Annual Kit.

Seasons of the Spirit – Growing Faith (Birth to Age 2);Wood Lake Books www.seasonsonline.ca/ or call 1-800-663-2775 The Growing Faith Kit contains 5 board books, 5 posters, a music CD and songbook, and a Leader’s Guide, packaged in a handy tote bag. Purchase once to use year after year.

* **Splash! Pack: Birth to Three Faith Formation**; (www.augsburgfortress.org)

This resource helps families fulfill the promises made at their child’s baptism. The packs are educational, fun, and full of ideas for bringing faith into the everyday life. Contains 12 monthly newsletters and a music CD. Each issue gives ideas and inspiration for families to worship, pray, eat and play together. Three different packs: 1-12 months with “Sleep Time Tunes”, 13-24 months with “Totally Toddler Tunes”, 25-36 months with “Singable Sunday Tunes”.

Young Children and Worship, Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman, John Knox Press, 1989. (www.thebookroom.ca) This beautifully spiritual and sensate program invites children, ages 3-7, to interact with God and Bible stories in a personal way. Features wooden and colourful flannel story materials, Montessori based learning, quiet and worshipful atmosphere. For leader training contact Nina Zwart 519-451-6713; nina.zwart@sympatico.ca. other resources include: *“Wonder...More Bible Stories for Children and Worship*, by Janet Schreuder; *The Complete Guide to Godly Play Vols. 1 & 2* by Jerome Berryman available at The Book Room.

Adult

Opening Doors to Discipleship (The Presbyterian Church in Canada) www.openingdoortodiscipleship.com; PCC log-in is 42596.

Course B: Basic Bible – an online, interactive tour through the Bible. Course C: Presbyterian/Reformed Faith. Course D: Discipleship. Bible Experience: Beginner. Click on “register” and follow instructions.

* **20/30 – Young Adult Series**; Abingdon Press (www.abingdonpress.com/forms/home.aspx)

Designed for adult learners in their 20s and 30s. Theme based studies include topics such as: Family, Afterlife, Grace, Balance, Faith, Community, Family, Love, and Prayer. Length of each study book: 7 sessions, Session time: 60-90 minutes, Bible Experience: Mid-level

* **Adult Bible Studies & Daily Bible Study** (series); Cokesbury (www.adultbiblestudies.com/)

A weekly dated resource that is Bible-based and Christ focused. This study series from the United Methodist Church is great for adult Sunday school classes or mid-week Bible study groups. Length of Study: 13 sessions, Session time: 45 minutes, Bible Experience: Mid-level

* **Discover Your Bible** (www.FaithAliveResources.org)

A study series that helps everyone (new believers or mature Christians) discover the richness of God’s Word. Helpful study guides use the inductive approach to help participants understand the passage for themselves and apply its truths to daily life.

* **Genesis to Revelation**; Abingdon Press (www.abingdonpress.com/forms/home.aspx)

A comprehensive 13-session, verse-by-verse Bible study series covering all the books of the bible. Each study book uses a three dimensional approach to learning – What does the Bible say? What does the passage mean? And How does this relate to my life? Bible Experience: Mid-level

* **In the Works Series** (www.FaithAliveResources.org)

This five-session series explores how Christians can be part of God’s mission in the world. Each title includes five daily readings for each week, five discussion guides (with activities, Bible study and discussion) and follow-up action options to apply the study to life.

* **Infuse Bible Studies** (www.FaithAliveResources.org)

This study book series aims to help people discover where faith and life meet. Each study book features a different book of the Bible. The study provides lots of background, maps and historical information to make the story being studied feel real.

Nooma: Zondervan; (www.nooma.com)

See Nooma listing under “Youth.”

Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsENCORE Adult; Wood Lake Books (www.seasonsonline.ca)

Based on the Revised Common Lectionary, this resource allows for deep investigation of the biblical material, engages various learning styles and provides meaningful ways to draw on the arts. Length of Study: Church year, order by season; Bible Experience: Mid-level to Advanced.

* **The Kerygma Program**; (www.kerygma.com)

Resources that challenge the mind and deepen faith through a variety of studies that include 2 courses that focus on the Bible as a whole, 4 courses on foundational questions of Christian thought, and many shorter courses on particular themes or books of the Bible. Length of studies: Varied; Bible Experience: Advanced.

The Thoughtful Christian; Presbyterian Church USA; (www.thethoughtfulchristian.com)

These are web-based resources that can be used for Sunday school classes, Bible study groups, or individual reflection. The studies encourage class members to share their thoughts and beliefs while wrestling with questions that inform the way we live out our faith in everyday life. Areas of study include: In the News, Bible and Theology, Popular Culture, Contemporary Issues, Spirituality, and Christian Living. Bible Experience: Mid-level.

* **Word Alive**; Faith Alive Christian Resources; (www.faihaliveresources.org)

Three series options include studies in the Old Testament, New Testament or Topical Studies. The study series digs into the Bible texts to find new insights into daily living. Length of studies: varied; Bible Experience: Mid-level.



Note: All resources marked with an * can be ordered from The Book Room, The Presbyterian Church in Canada

To order from The Bookroom:

Call: 1-800-619-7301

Email: bookroom@presbyterian.ca

Based on our review and use of various resources,

Canadian Ministries/The Vine recommends the following materials.

For addition recommendations please contact

Canadian Ministries/The Vine at cmv@presbyterian.ca.

Profession of Faith/New Members

* **Glorifying and Enjoying God: The People, Practice and Promise of The Presbyterian Church in Canada**; Dorothy Henderson; The Presbyterian Church in Canada

This newly updated booklet can be read individually or in a group setting. This resource can be used for adults or youth but is not geared towards younger learners. It provides discussion opportunities but few activities. Length of Study: 7 sessions.

* **Gifts of God: The Sacraments** (DVD and study guide) Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2010. A resource for all age groups in congregations designed to help Christians new or mature understand the beauty and meaning of the Sacraments. Length of Video – 14 minutes (two 7 minute clips); study guide includes 2 expandable sessions.

* **I Believe: Getting ready to profess my faith** (Christian Reform Church); Jessie Schut; Faith Alive Christian Resources

This resource pairs youth and adult mentors to learn together or it can be done in small groups. It encourages studying Scripture, personal expression of faith through creative means, asking questions and discussion. Length of Study: 8 sessions. (some Christian Reformed content)

* **Leap in Faith: A Confirmation Resource**; Leslee Alfano, Noelle Bowles, and Rick Garland; United Church Publishing House This is resource that challenges youth to explore their Christian faith and understand how it intersects with life. Many different options are provided for its use, both personal and community, depending on the context. The resource also provides “challenges”, ways for congregations to engage in new ministry opportunities and programs. It is not organized into designated “sessions”. (some United Church of Canada resources and references)

* **Making Disciples: A New Approach to Confirmation**; William H. Willimon; Logos Productions Inc.

This is a mentor-based confirmation program that pairs youth with adult mentors and guides them through learning experiences that strengthen an understanding of the Christian faith and connect youth with the community of believers in a personal way. Coordinator’s guide, mentor’s guide and support video, confirmand’s journal and guide, are available. Study: 13 sessions.

* **The Great Adventure: Exploring Christian Faith with Young People**; Patricia Pays; Anglican Book Centre (some Anglican content and examples)

An innovative resource that provides sound theological background and a wide range of engaging activities (drama, music, literature) to help students aged 10-15 explore Christian faith. The focus on faith development is excellent and universal. Length of Study: 7 sessions.

We Believe: Professing Our Faith: A Confirmation Curriculum; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); Meg Rift & Eunice McGarrahan (some American content and examples)

This resource provides youth with a foundational understanding of Reformed-Presbyterianism. It presents the biblical foundations and theology of the Apostle’s Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord’s Prayer. The resource encourages young people to explore the meaning of their baptism and participation at the Lord’s Supper, church polity, stewardship, spiritual practices, worship and mission. Length of Study: 2 options - full-length format includes 35 sessions, including two for use at Christmas and Easter, and is designed for use during the school year or an abbreviated 8-session program. Order directly from PC(USA) at www.store.pcusa.org or by calling 1-800-524-2612

Mid-Week/Outreach

Bible Carnival; Dorothy Henderson; www.presbyterian.ca/resources/online/1863 (free); Age group: Ages 7-14

A four session program to help children and “twens” learn about the Bible. Participants will use songs, games and play to learn the pronunciation of the books of the Bible, recognize and spell the books of the Bible, remember the ordering of the books of the Bible, and begin to learn how to find biblical references.

* **The Kids of the Kingdom Club 1 & 2: A mid-week program for children**, Kenneth Stright, The Presbyterian Church in Canada. (free)

This resource is based on Old and New Testament Bible stories, provides a balance of quiet and active time, encourages a broad base of leadership, is rooted in the local church community and encourages a sense of mission. The program sets up two spaces – an “inner” and “outer” kingdom - with various activity corners in each such as worship, games, food, Bible, craft, and mission. Each session is an hour long and lends itself to an afterschool setting.

* **Partners in Possibility: Doing God’s Work Together – A Mission Learning/Sharing Experience for Children and Youth**. Download: www.presbyterian.ca/resources/online/5376 or for purchase from The Book Room.

This is an annually produced resource for children ages 6-16. Each five session resource is adaptable for church schools, VBS, camping, mid-week groups and family or intergenerational events. The 2010-2011 study is *Partners in Possibility: Doing God’s Work Together* by Linda Shaw. The 2011-2012 study is *Katelyn’s Cariboo Adventure: Meeting Partners in Cariboo Presbyterian Church* by Shannon Bell-Wyminga.

* **Bible Adventures I & II**; United Church Publishing House; www.uscdstore.ca/curriculum.html; Age group: Ages 5-12

These two curricula are each five-sessions long. *Bible Adventures I: Sharing the Good News* helps children to see that people of faith working together can bring acts of caring, peace, and justice to their world. A music CD is included. *Bible Adventures II: Walking with Jesus*, helps children understand that walking with Jesus is a daily choice and challenge. The sessions use a hiking theme to connect the biblical message to children’s lives through drama, games, snacks, crafts, and a labyrinth.

* **FaithWeaver Friends**; Group Publishing Inc.; www.fwfriends.com; Age group: Preschool – Grade 6

FaithWeaver Friends focuses on helping children discover they have a real friend in Jesus. It is a dated, quarterly curriculum available fall through spring. The Discovery Centers are flexible, allowing leaders to shape them to fit space & time available. Multi-age small groups encourage learning and relationship building.

* **Highpoint**; Gospel Publishing House; www.gph.org Age group: Kindergarten – Grade 5

A multi-media curriculum focusing on helping elementary kids become more like Jesus one biblical character trait at a time. It uses high-energy large & small group time, singing, video, skits (no need to memorize), crafts/activities, verse memorization, service projects, worship, discipleship, fellowship, fun & games. Intentional 5-session themes.

* **Kid Connection**; Faith Alive Christian Resources; www.kidconnectiononline.org

Age group: Kindergarten–Grade 6 (3 year cycle - 9 units available/year = 36 lessons/year)

Kid Connection is biblical, great for outreach, and relevant to today’s kids. It features a large group/small group format, with thematic four lesson units. Each session begins with worship time and a Bible story presentation. Focuses on connecting: church and home, kids with God, and church to community.

Logos; The LOGOS Ministry; www.thelogosministry.org; Age group: Elementary – High school

Logos is a mid-week ministry that helps children and youth builds and deepen their relationships with Christ and with each other. At Logos everyone is a child of God. The four parts of the LOGOS weekly ministry model are: Bible Study, Worship Skills, Recreation Play, & Family time (shared meal).

Mission Possible Kids; United Methodist Church; www.missionpossiblekids.org; Age group: Kindergarten–Grade 6

MISSION POSSIBLE KIDS (MPKids), is a non-profit organization, empowering kids to change the world by helping others. Children participate in mission activities such as collecting goods for food banks, cooking meals for homeless shelters, making gifts for hospitalized children, raising money to end world hunger. MISSION POSSIBLE KIDS offers a year of detailed mission plans which you can use as is, adapt or use as a guide to create your own.

Youth

* **Amazing Bible Race** (www.amazingbibleace.com); Abingdon Press; Age Group: Sr. High

Take your youth on a journey through the Bible, with a thrilling scavenger hunt adventure that brings to life the biblical characters, stories, events, and messages that we have come to love and live by. Join with youth all across the country and around the world – to experience the fun of competition, the balance of team cooperation, and the prize that rewards the participants for the rest of their lives.

Be Tween: Exploring Faith and Christian Life with Older Children (http://store.pcusa.org); PCUSA; Age group: ages 9-11. This is a specialty resource that contains eight sessions addressing issues of faith and life for “twens” and parents.

* **Bible Lessons for Youth**; Cokesbury; Age group: Grades 7-12

Teach youth the entire Bible in six years! A comprehensive Bible-to-life curriculum in an easy, step-by-step sequence. Bible Lessons for youth applies the Bible to real-life issues that teens face. Activities stimulate teens to conduct self examination, think about serious issues, make value judgments and apply biblical principles to real-world situations. Every lesson in each six-year curriculum block is charted and calendar dated. Lessons are adaptable to junior high and senior high teens.

* **Claim the Life** (www.claimthelife.com); Abingdon Press (2007)

Claim the Life is a six-year, comprehensive spiritual formation plan for youth Sunday school. The annual themes are Journey, Word, and Faith for younger youth; Promise, Story, and Call for older youth. Each year is divided into two 16-week semesters. Focuses on helping youth building relationships with one another, learning and living their faith.

* **e|Merge** (www.leadayouth.com); Abingdon Press; Age group: Jr. & Sr. High

e|Merge is a dynamic blending of media, fun, spirituality, and relationships where teens emerge as disciples. A DVD-based youth group resource that provides an opportunity for teens to learn about themselves and grow in relationship with one another, with other members of the congregation, and with Jesus Christ. Large Group/Small Group format. Three themes for 13 weeks of programming. Both younger and older youth begin together as a large group then break apart into 2 (or more) small groups according to age.

Nooma (www.nooma.com); Zondervan; Age group: Sr. High/young adult

Nooma resources are short films (on DVD) and study guides focusing on real life issues that interest young minds and stimulate discussion. “We can get anything we want, from anywhere in the world, whenever we want it. That’s how it is and that’s how we want it to be. Still, our lives aren’t any different than other generations before us; our time is. We want spiritual direction, but it has to be real for us and available when we need it. We want a new format for getting Christian perspectives. NOOMA is the new format.”

* **re:form** (www.wearsparkhouse.org/reform); Augsburg Fortress; Age group: Grades 6-8

re:form is a fully customizable curriculum that is rooted in historic Christianity. It speaks to kids on their level and empowers youth to discover for themselves what they believe. This curriculum includes 40 interactive lesson plans covering themes such as “Does God still create stuff today?” and “Who wrote the Bible, God or humans?” Curriculum includes DVD, leader’s guide and participants’ anti-workbook”.

Single Digit Youth Groups: Working with fewer than 10 teens & Single Digit Youth Groups 2: More Activities, Plus Mission Ideas (Marcey Balcomb); Abingdon Press (2004); Age group: Jr. & Sr. High

This resource provides a faith-based rationale for youth ministry with small groups, along with helpful tools to enable it to happen. Also includes chapters on cooperative youth ministry, safety issues, activity ideas and various forms and worksheets.

* **Thinking Theologically**; Abingdon Press (2004/2005); Age group: Sr. High

Don’t tell youth what to think – teach them how to think, by helping them grapple with personal choices and serious real life issues. Discussions include: What does theology have to do with money, pop culture, body image, disparity between rich & poor and more?

* **Veracity Video Vignettes** (http://www.claimthelife.com/veracityvideo); Abingdon Press; Age group: Sr. High

A twelve-volume series of DVD clips that help the truth of Scripture meet real life. These discussion starters can be used to teach teens important lessons about the Christian faith. Each DVD volume features five short films.

Family

Planning for Family Ministry

* ***Children Matter: Celebrating Their Place in the Church Family and Community***. Scott May, Beth Posterski, Catherine Stonehouse and Linda Cannell, Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans (2005). This book offers a full discussion of children’s spirituality and shows how the faith community can effectively nurture its youngest members.

* **Embracing Parents: How your Congregation can Strengthen Families**, Jolene & Eugene Roehlkepartain, Abingdon Press (2004)

Emphasizes a home/church partnership; encourages churches to strengthen family faith formation.

* **Passing on the Faith: A Radical New Model for Youth and Family Ministry**, Merton P. Strommen & Richard Hardel, Minnesota: St. Mary Press (2000)

Practical wisdom from practicing congregations. “I recommend this book wholeheartedly—and with high hopes the church may listen” Kenda Creasy Dean.

* **Wrapped in God’s Love: A Milestone Ministry Resource**, Canadian Interchurch Stewardship Committee (2004) (www.presbyterian.ca/bookroom/pcc/Youth/wrapped.html)

This resource helps congregations to celebrate significant transitions of change and growth along life’s journey with its congregants. This resource covers the period of time from infancy through 18 years of age.

Youth & Family Institute

Internet resource: www.youthandfamilyinstitute.org

The Youth & Family Institute helps equip families to pass on faith and live well in Jesus Christ. The Institute also offers research-based visions and trains church leaders, lay volunteers and church professionals to equip families to pass on faith.

Resources for Church Family Use

* **Learning God’s Stories Together: Intergenerational Program for Church & Home**, Dorothy Henderson, Wood Lake Books, 2007

20 Bible studies and activities for families to do together.

* **99 Ways to Raise Spiritually Healthy Children** (devotional), Kathleen Long Bostrom, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, (2010).

“This book is a gentle and stress-free way to take moments of quiet reflection, even in the busiest of lives”

* **Christian Family Toolbox: 52 Benedictine Activities for the Home**, David Robinson, The Crossroad Publishing Company (2001)

Offers spiritual activities for families: health, life together, hospitality, growth, etc.

* **Families on Mission: Ideas for Teaching your Preschooler to Love, Share, and Care**, Angie Quantrell, Women’s Missionary Union (2005)

A book of fun family activity ideas that will help parents teach their preschoolers how to love, share and care about others. This creative idea book will help parents discover ways to involve their preschoolers in ministry activities designed just for their small hands.

* **Family Faith Walks: On-the-Go Faith Activities**, Kelly J. Haack, Concordia Publishing House (2002)

This book is a collection of devotions and activities to help families grow in faith together by engaging on excursions in the neighbourhood or community, games, projects and other activities.

* **God with us today**, June Galle Krehbiel, Faith & Life Resources (2006)

100 engaging devotions which include scripture, prayer, questions, fun activities.

Side by Side: Families Learning and Living the Faith Together, Delia Halverson, Nashville: Abingdon Press, (2002). This is a unique Sunday school resource that allows children and parents to learn together. The book contains nine 45-60 minute classroom sessions that focus on specific topics or themes.

WE Faith Alive Christian Resources 2010 (Wecurriculum.org)

This is a faith nurture resource for the entire church family.